

REMARKS

With this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 6, 12, 13, and 15 and cancel claims 4, 5, 14, and 21. Therefore, claims 1-3, 6-13, and 15-20 are all the claims currently pending in this Application. Claims 7-11 and 16-19 are withdrawn. Therefore, claims 1-3, 6, 12, 13, 15, and 20 are all the claims currently under consideration.

Claims 1-6, 12-15, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Watanabe (U.S. Patent 6,823,083) in view of Kim (U.S. Patent 6,078,686).

In the current Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claim 21 contains allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten into independent form (Office Action, p. 7). With this Amendment, Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 21, claim 5 (from which claim 21 depends) and claim 4 (from which claim 5 depends). Claims 4, 5, and 21 are cancelled. Claim 6 is amended to depend from claim 1.

Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the limitation of “determining a chromaticity correcting level for correcting the first and second chromaticity signals of the target pixel based on the saturation signal of the target pixel, the average saturation signal and the hue difference signal according to a first equation when the hue difference signal is smaller than a hue difference threshold and according to a second equation, different from the first equation, when the hue difference signal is greater than the hue difference threshold” and the limitations of claim 14. Claim 14 is cancelled. Claim 15 is amended to remove language that would have been redundant as dependent on amended claim 12.

Therefore, in view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 12 are patentable over the cited references and that claims 2, 3, 6, 20, 13, and 15 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependence on claims 1 and 12.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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